

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
April 20, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Chris Kozaites, President
Bea Antenore
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Brett Waterfield

Absent: Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President (excused)
Drew Satariano (excused)

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau
Janet Day-Anselmo, Manager, Business Operations Bureau
Diane Lewis, Manager, Community Enrichment Programs
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Superintendent, Community Recreation Programs Bureau
Geoff Hall, Special Projects Officer
Gwendolyn Parker, Superintendent of Contracts and Revenue Development
William Greco, Acting Chief Ranger
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Summer Hansen, Children's Day

It was moved by Commissioner Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to excuse the absence of Vice President Saltzgaver and Commissioner Satariano. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the March 16, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – JANET DAY-ANSELMO

Ms. Janet Day-Anselmo gave a PowerPoint presentation on what Sammy has been doing the past month and then awarded the Sammy Award to Viola Sellers, Assistant Administrative Analyst in the Business Operations Bureau.

IV. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION FOR APRIL

President Kozaites stated that the Employee of the Month Award would be postponed to the May meeting, because the employee was not available.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#06-0401

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

Mr. Hester stated that the Contract Class Coordinator is very active and there are quite a few classes on this agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner George to authorize the Community Recreation Programs Bureau Manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

President Kozaites stated that the Children's Day item would be taken later, when Ms. Summer Hansen arrives.

#06-0403

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A NEW PERMIT WITH GREG RUVOLO AND TED SNELLEN, INDIVIDUALS DOING BUSINESS AS EL DORADO EXPRESS

Mr. Hester stated that the Department went through a Request for Proposal process for the train and picnic concession in El Dorado Regional Park, and El Dorado Express was the only responder.

President Kozaites asked about the current rent. Ms. Gwendolyn Parker responded that the current rent is a percentage fee based on revenue received for the past three years. There is no minimum.

Commissioner Guerra asked if there are other operators. Ms. Parker responded that the Request for Proposal was posted on the City's website and sent to 20 potential operators, who did not respond.

Commissioner Antenore said that this train was placed in the park years ago in lieu of a full-scale train; they wanted to have something like the train in Griffith Park. The neighbors did not want a full-scale train, so this smaller version was brought in.

Commissioner Guerra said that he rode the train about three years ago with his boys, but there seemed to be something lacking on the ride. He felt there could have been more done for the ride.

Ms. Parker responded that Greg Ruvolo and his partner are exploring different ways of expanding the operation, but there are restrictions with how that area can be developed.

Mr. Hester stated that there has been discussion on expanding the train ride, without trying to make it into an amusement park ride.

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to authorize the execution of a new permit with Greg Ruvolo and Ted Snellen, individuals doing business as El Dorado Express, for the operation of an 18-gauge model railway concession for a term of five years with two five-year options for renewal, subject to the approval of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites said that the Executive Committee met last week and discussed the agenda. They recommended taking another tour of the park facilities later in the summer, after the new Commissioners are appointed.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE Commissioner Satariano, Chair

President Kozaites stated that Commissioner Satariano was not here and the statement was included in the packet. He said that the Committee would meet in two weeks to discuss fees.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE Commissioner Waterfield, Chair

Commissioner Waterfield stated that the Committee met this morning. He said that park ranger staffing was an issue discussed and the Department would hopefully receive background clearance soon, to be able to hire more park rangers. Commissioner Waterfield said that the park rangers have been

involved in the student protests that have taken place over the past month, particularly in Houghton and Cesar Chavez Parks. He also discussed the two large events that recently took place at El Dorado Regional Park, the Cambodian New Year event on April 15, followed by Easter Sunday on April 16. He commended the park rangers for their work during those two events. He also stated that the incident statistics were included in the packet.

Mr. Greco stated that El Dorado Regional Park was so full on Easter Sunday and traffic was backed up on the 605 Freeway that staff had to close the park at 4:00 p.m. to any further entries.

Commissioner Guerra asked about the Cambodian New Year dates.

Mr. Hester responded that those dates were previously discussed with the group, and David Ashman would be holding a debriefing meeting to look at next year's event.

Mr. Hester responded that the park ranger manual is complete and ready to be distributed and would possibly be brought before the Parks and Recreation Commission next month.

President Kozaites suggested that the draft park ranger manual be sent to all the Commissioners and referred to the Park Safety Committee to make recommendations to the full Commission. He suggested that the Commissioners who are not on the Park Safety Committee call Commissioner Waterfield and let him know their suggestions.

Mr. Hester discussed the park ranger budget reductions and said that the Department is requesting that they be exempt from further reductions, such as Police and Fire are exempt. He also mentioned the discussions about placing a police supervisor over the park rangers.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

President Kozaites stated that Commissioner Satariano was not here, and the Committee did not meet.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee met this morning and discussed the projects listed in the report. He said that the Committee would be arranging for a tour of the park facilities, as President Kozaites already mentioned.

Commissioner Antenore requested that since this tour would happen after she and President Kozaites would be termed out, could they also be invited to attend.

Mr. Hester discussed the park bond issue that would be going before the City Council. He suggested that this be discussed at a Capital Improvement Projects Committee meeting, before the next Commission meeting.

President Kozaites mentioned that the President of the Westside Long Beach Youth Foundation spoke at the City Council meeting very eloquently and did an outstanding job. The Parks and Recreation Commission should thank her for doing an outstanding job.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner stated that the woman was Jerlene Tatum

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that she was unable to attend and asked if Commissioner Waterfield could go over the items.

Commissioner Waterfield went over the items discussed at the meeting, such as the project at Admiral Kidd Park.

Commissioner Guerra stated that the City Council discussed several times removing asphalt at schools and turning it to park land. He asked if this was the appropriate committee to bring this subject up.

President Kozaites stated that on April 18, the City Council also discussed this issue. He said that he thinks it is incredibly important that we push for the greening of the asphalt playgrounds and develop sports fields for our programs as well.

Mr. Hester stated that this concept goes back quite a ways, and Tom Clark was one of the initiators for this discussion. He said that there is a higher-level committee, which includes the Mayor and the Superintendent of Schools, and this item should be brought to their attention. Mr. Hester stated that the Department did do a pilot program with Birney Elementary School to remove the asphalt and replace it with turf. He said that it is more expensive because of the maintenance issue. The Department looked into an agreement, at the time, to perform maintenance of the site. There is currently a State law in effect that does not allow the school districts to contract out their maintenance. The work has to be performed by their employees, and they have a very small staff. The Long Beach Unified School District, at that time, decided to not replace asphalt with turf due to the maintenance cost. Mr. Hester said that he asked Dennis Eschen, a few months ago, to look at all the various school sites in the city to look for opportunities to green asphalt areas or realign school fence

areas to allow for more public use for sports fields. He also discussed the Department being interested in handling the permitting of the school green areas.

Commissioner Guerra requested a copy of the asphalt to greening of the school yards report be sent to the Commissioners.

President Kozaites requested that this item be discussed at the May Executive Committee meeting regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission's involvement and where it should go.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Ms. Diane Lewis stated that Vice President Saltzgaver asked her to distribute the schedule for the free summer concerts, which will be going into the Department's summer brochure also. She said that they are including the schedule for the Municipal Band as well as the free summer concert program that we are planning this year. In the free summer concerts program, the Department is including the locations that have traditionally had music, like the Nature Center, Rancho Los Cerritos, El Dorado Park, and Cerritos Park. In addition to these, they are going to provide music at other park locations throughout the city where there isn't a Municipal Band concert, funded from sources other than the General Fund. She said that this schedule would be distributed at all the concerts throughout the city.

Commissioner Guerra requested that the Municipal Band schedule be e-mailed to him so he could distribute it to his neighborhood.

Ms. Lewis discussed the Municipal Band Gala and distributed flyers.

President Kozaites stated that the Commission would now hear information on the Children's Day event.

V. #06-0402
CHILDREN'S DAY

Ms. Summer Hansen stated that it is her vision that Children's Day be celebrated everywhere. Ms. Hansen discussed all the Children's Day events that would be taking place throughout the city.

The Parks and Recreation Commissioners thanked Ms. Hansen for her presentation.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2006

Commissioner Antenore asked if the gas cost is impacting the mobile recreation program. Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded no, the program still has its scheduled stops.

Mr. Hester stated that they don't do a lot of driving around; they stop at two locations and stay half a day at each.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Kozaites stated that there was no correspondence received.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Kozaites stated there was no unfinished business this month.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. HOMELAND NEIGHBORHOOD CULTURAL CENTER AT MACARTHUR PARK STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2008

Ms. Lewis stated that a copy of the draft plan was included in the packet. She said that it gives an insight into the history of Homeland, a needs assessment, the artistic vision statement, the current service program offerings, the challenges of Homeland and MacArthur Park and how the Department hopes to address those in the next few years, and information about the new construction project. She said that there have been goals and objectives laid out beginning this year through 2008, and they would be working closely with the Homeland staff to set a direction for future expansion of the facility and taking back the park with positive activities.

Commissioner Antenore stated it was well done and very interesting.

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to refer the Homeland Neighborhood Cultural Center at MacArthur Park Strategic Plan 2006-2008 to the Recreation and Special Events Committee to come back to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Kozaites asked for comments from the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

B. STAFF

Ms. Lewis distributed flyers for events at Rancho Los Cerritos and Homeland and discussed the events.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department was a finalist for the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Gold Medal Award, which can only be won every five years by the same city. He said the winner would be announced at the NRPA annual conference in Seattle, Washington in October. The Department needs to prepare a 12-minute video to be submitted for the final judging.

Ms. Lewis stated that the Nature Center has a couple of Earth Day events on Saturday and described those.

Mr. Hester stated that the Cesar Chavez Park Amphitheater opening has been delayed to July and the Grace Park opening would possibly take place on May 20.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Guerra asked if his neighborhood association could request the mobile skate park truck to come out to their neighborhood for an event. Mr. Hester stated that he would have staff contact him and check with their schedule.

Commissioner Guerra asked for an explanation of Partners of Parks.

Commissioner Antenore responded that they are a non-profit group, started many years ago to support parks and recreation. She said that they are in the middle of reorganization. One of the things they do is raise funds for kids who cannot afford to pay for classes, etc., and they are involved in receiving money for fundraisers benefiting the parks. She mentioned that one of the changes being made is when Partners of Parks will handle a large fundraiser, they will be charging a 10% fee because they need to hire accountants and people to work in the office.

Commissioner Waterfield invited staff and the Commissioners to the California State University, Long Beach Kaleidoscope event on April 29 at 11:00 a.m.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2006, at El Dorado Park West, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road., Long Beach.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine